

REMARKS

The Applicants elect to prosecute the invention in Group II, which includes claims 5-40, 48-55 and 59-60. This election is made without traverse and without prejudice to Applicants' rights to file divisional applications covering the subject matter of non-elected and canceled claims 1-4, 41-47 and 56-58 of Groups I and III. New claims 61-64 are added which Applicants believe fall within the scope of Group II. Claims 5-27, 35-38, 48, 54, and 59-60 are amended.

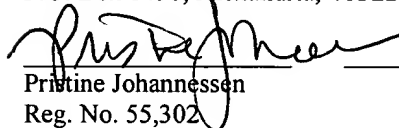
Entry and favorable consideration of the present Response is respectfully requested. The Applicants believe that the elected claims and new claims are patentable and early allowance is requested. To expedite the prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues regarding this application.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-4270.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/26/04

I hereby certify that the correspondence attached herewith is being transmitted via Certificate of First Class Mail to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

 10/26/04
Pristine Johannessen Date
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